

Story 1736 1994 Tape 1

Narrator: Cevdet Uğuz,
veterinarian

Location: Taşkale village,
Karaman
(provincial capital
but formerly kaza
merkezi), Karaman
Province

Date: May 1994

Railroad Marvel

There was a Laz¹ who boarded a westbound train to go to Eskişehir. After a short while he spoke to the man sitting opposite him in the compartment. He asked, "Where are you going?"

"I am going to İstanbul

The Laz smiled and said, "Today's technology is really amazing! I am sitting here, and I am going to Eskişehir. There you are sitting across from me, but you are going to İstanbul!"²

¹The Lazes live along the Black Sea coast. The word Laz in most anecdotes refers to any resident of the area, though the word was derived from the Lazi, an ethnic minority that speaks a Mingrelian-Caucasian language. Lazes are stereotyped as being stupid or inept, though of course they are no less intelligent than other people.

²Eskişehir lies on the main railroad line between Ankara and İstanbul.